

MAUSA Boxing Board of Directors Meeting February 25, 2018

1. The MAUSA Boxing Board of Directors meeting was held Sunday, February 25, 2018 at the Office of Scott Dexter, Lansing MI at 11:00am
2. The meeting was called to order by President Ron Cunningham at 1:08pm
3. Board members present Term
 - a. President – Ron Cunningham December 31, 2020
 - b. Vice President – Gary Richards December 31, 2020
 - c. Treasurer – Betty Richards December 31, 2020
 - d. Secretary – Cheri Szendre December 31, 2020
 - e. Registration Chairman – Ed Mosley December 31, 2020
 - f. Athlete Representative – Sarah Rae December 31, 2020 (arrived late)
 - g. Chief of Officials - Scott Dexter December 31, 2020
4. Board Members absent
 - a. Athlete Rep Jarrell Brackett – at this time Mr. Brackett has indicated that he plans to appeal the decision by USAB to suspend his membership, he has until 3/7/18 to respond to them.
5. Directors Absent
 - a. MI Golden Gloves Director – Dave Packer
 - b. JO Director – Eric McGuire
 - c. Detroit GG Director – Rene Muniz
6. Committee Chairs present
 - a. Katealia Chambers (1:23pm)
7. USA Boxing Members Present
John O'Brien

OFFICERS REPORTS

1. President Ron Cunningham – President Cunningham reported that he is disappointed in the activities of the LBC athlete rep Jarrell Brackett and with the incident involving a boxer, coach, and official at the Eastern Qualifier tournament. He stated he was most disappointed with the officials involved, that as officials they should be above board, not having the attitude to do it even though it is wrong and worry only if they get caught. Honor and integrity used to matter but doesn't seem to now, he stated. He is glad to see that USAB is finally addressing it and that it will be taken care of shortly.
2. Vice Presidents Report, Gary Richards – Mr. Richards stated again that the LBC is losing clubs and members with USA Boxing and AIBA changing the rule all the time, and that it is making it hard to have good shows.
3. Secretary's Report, Cheri Szendre – Nothing to report at this time.
4. Treasures Report, Betty Richards – Mrs. Richards stated that the Michigan LBC as of 1/31/18 has \$46,799.13 in the mm checking at Chase, and \$29,779.32 in the CU savings for a total of \$76,578.45. It was asked if there was anything outstanding at this time? Ans. Only a supervisor expense report from Joe Kastely that would be received soon.

President Cunningham asked what the balance was 1 year ago? Mrs. Richards did not have that information available. President Cunningham indicated that it would be helpful to know where we were 12 months ago on a quarterly basis to see if a trend can be established. Mrs. Richards indicated she has been working on a big report for USAB.

5. Registration Chairman Report, Ed Mosley – Mr. Mosley reported that the LBC now has 35 registered clubs, 1 new one on the Northern Detroit without any boxers listed. There are 401 athlete members, 146 registered non-athletes, and 137 are lapsed or non-renewed at this time. Mr. Mosely reported that the 2 scholarship applicants are not eligible as one has not been registered since 2013 and the other is not a US citizen. He indicated that Paul W confirmed that they were not eligible and the scholarships were not awarded. It was asked if the names had been submitted to the registration chair for verification? Ans. No. That Betty had given him the names to check on and that they were not registered. That Paul W said only 2 athletes applied, so he just gave it to them without checking. John O'Brien asked who the scholarship notice / applications were sent to? Ans. Gyms and coaches. John indicated he thought it should as well have been sent to officials who may know of worthy candidates.

6. Chief of Officials Report, Scott Dexter – Scott gave a handout that is current to Feb. 22 listing all currently registered clubs and certified officials.

7. Athlete Representative Reports - Sarah Ray Batenburg – Sarah stated that she has been working on the surveys, that she tried working with Jarrell but it didn't go well. She indicated she is developing 4 types of surveys, 1 for Boxers, 1 for Coaches, 1 for Officials, and one for apprentice officials. She wants to get a good representation from each group about what they like, don't like, how long they have been involved, what motivates them to stay involved, etc... As well as getting input on their thoughts for improvement, concerns, and any additional comments they feel are relevant. In particular she wants feed back on the relationship between boxers and coaches, and coaches and officials, she is looking for personal thoughts on the relationships to help eliminate conflicts. She also wants to get feedback on regarding shows, matches, peripherals, show experience vs. training experience, developmental bouts (were they used/helpful) what helped, what they liked, why they box. She expressed she wanted the surveys to be a tool for ideas to pass along to coaches and/or officials. She indicated that they would be ready to send out in approximately 2-3 weeks due to her laptop crashing and needing to be repaired. It was asked who the survey's go back to and how the information is communicated. Ans. The surveys will go back to Sarah, she will aggregate the information and put it into a chart by percentage. It can then be emailed or uploaded to the website for dissemination. She indicated that it could as well be sent to the BOD first for approval before being posted or distributed. Sarah also said she tried to email Paul W about the scholarship, and that the board may want to reconsider the 3 year membership requirement because by then the (student) athlete is almost finished with school / college.

8. There were no directors present to give reports for the J.O., GG or Det. GG.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance Committee Report, Betty Richards indicated she had nothing to add.

2. Rules and Regulation Chair, Katealia Chambers not present – Katealia Chambers – Rules and Regulations Committee Chair passed out a copy of the new Policy and Procedure manual that was put into effect in December after the Board of Governors meeting. President Cunningham indicated that he has submitted a copy to USAB without response and that the BoD approved to accept it “as written” until such time as USAB responds. It will as well be given to all registered clubs at the next BoG meeting so they can vote on it.

Katealia indicated that she needed a fee schedule emailed to her, Betty Richards will email it to her. She also needs the current Inspector Report emailed to her, there was discussion as to whether this was the officials "sign in sheet" or if this was the actual Inspector Competition report that gets sent to Gary Richards indicating any restrictions or incidents at shows. Scott and Katealia will figure out what forms are needed and get them to her.

3. Officials Committee Report, Scott Dexter indicated that Angel V had responded and that he would be available May 5 for an officials clinic. As that is the weekend of the GG state finals that will not work. President Cunningham reiterated that his idea was that the coaches and officials would get together in a more informal setting to promote good will and a better understanding overall of the roles and rules each group plays. He was aware of the USAB program to bring in a select official and the LBC pays for it, he felt we had qualified officials in our LBC that could facilitate this. He indicated he would like to see Scott go back to the original idea, if possible work with Crutchfield, pick a weekend, get the coaches and officials together, work on team building, etc... He asked Mr. Dexter – "Are you willing to do that?" Mr. Dexter responded "Yes, I'll try." President Cunningham suggested that if he can't work with or get response from Crutchfield, then perhaps reach out to Alex Fernandez.

4. Registration Committee – Ed Mosely indicated he did not have more to share.

5. Coach's Committee – Jason Crutchfield was not present - No Report given

6. Tournament Planning Committee Dave Packer not present – no report given.

7. Judicial Committee – Dennis Shimmell not present – no report given. President Cunningham reported for the committee that with regard to the complaint of a coach/gym "stealing" developed boxers, USAB said there is nothing they can do about it, there is no specific rule that has been violated to file a grievance. Ed Mosley stated that if a coach is holding a boxers passbook they will just have to get a new one.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Awards Committee – It was discussed that a new committee needs to be put together, and someone named to head it up, President Cunningham will try to have it put together by the next meeting in June. The previous committee had submitted the names of the award recipients for 2017, and that the awards were given by recommendation of the BoD and the previous committee submissions. President Cunningham stated that he had presented the award to Zoe Glass, and that Clarissa Shields had presented the award for Coach of the Year to Don Wells who was very grateful.
2. Scholarship Committee Chairman – Atty Paul Watson was not present. No report. It was earlier discussed that the names of those awarded scholarships were ineligible, therefore no funds will be distributed at this time.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. John O'Brien was present to give a presentation on a potential development program to help local Michigan boxers get to the next level (nationals) with success. He reminded the board that in the past, EVERYBODY came out of Kronk, that Michigan was well represented. Now even smaller states are better recognized than MI and that the more a boxer is seen at the national level, the more recognition they get. That whether we want to admit it or not, the more they are recognized, the more they will get the "nod" in a close round/bout. In Michigan there seems to be no mechanism, no direction that boxers are aware of to advance. The LBC needs to steer them to the national level. From a coaches standpoint, sending a boxer to the Eastern Qualifier (by winning the state tournament or otherwise) is too late for them to be successful at the nationals. And winning the state tournament does not suggest that they are ready to compete on a national level for the most part.

His proposal was to put some specific criteria in place, a guide the boxer and coaches can follow to get them there. Boxers don't get that they need to play a part in getting there by winning a one time tournament. To be a contender at the national level and receive sponsorship, the boxer should be at a minimum athlete of the year, have had a certain number of bouts in the year, preferably boxed out of their region or state for a portion of those bouts, and won the majority of them. They need to understand they have to meet us half way, they have a role to play in their advancement. And the LBC needs to make the commitment EARLY in the year, every year, they should know that if they are the athlete of the year, they will be going to the Western Qualifier in the beginning of the year, and possibly the Eastern Qualifier at the end of the year. If the plan is communicated to the coaches and boxers EARLY on, they can get their game plan together. To earn the sponsorship the Athlete must commit to the following:

X number of bouts (undecided #)

Boxing in a minimum of 3 states or regionals

Box in the 2018 MI GG or Detroit GG

Box in the State Tournament

Mr. O'Brien indicated that he could see the BOD heart was in the right place wanting to send the winners of the state tournament to the nationals, but that there is no return on investment, and that it is expensive to send that many boxers who are in generally not at the national level.

Mr. O'Brien also indicated that the coach needs to go with the boxer, if the LBC can/will fund that it would be even better.

He proposed that the board use the unused scholarship funds to send Zoe Glass to the Western Qualifier. He knew that she had registered but was having trouble getting the funds together for her and her coach (father) to make the trip.

He also indicated that he knew FWC was not going – meaning that the other athlete of the year, McElroy would not be going but was planning to go to the Eastern Qualifier in Oct.

Mr. O'Brien had a handout with greater detail of the proposal which was handed out to the BOD.

President Cunningham indicated that when he had first heard of this proposal, he was against it because he felt that as an LBC the resources would be “directed” for only a few select “elite” athletes rather than for everyone.

Mr. O'Brien indicated, the proposal was an “elite development program” that was open to all elite athletes.

Betty Richards asked “how do we recoup the loss?”

Mr. Obrien indicated that without a way to keep boxers in boxing, we will lose members. The program will incentivize boxers and coaches to be member, renew membership, enter club and tournament shows which create sanction revenue and profits. Anything that builds the constituency builds the LBC.

Scott Dexter stated he was glad to see that boxing out of state was included in the program, that the coaches and clubs need to understand that they must reciprocate in travel. That a show just doesn't come together “willynilly”. That we need to take ownership, development starts at a young age, the proposal doesn't state this but maybe develop a program to send boxers to the J.O.'s, Silver Gloves or other national level tournament for non-elite boxers.

Scott stated he loved the passion of the presentation.

Ed Mosley commented that he thought it had great promise, he shared the concerns of the treasurer and thought that we should concentrate on getting a grant to help with the program, or do some fund raising efforts. Start small and work our way up, not try to send 14 people at once.

Mr. O'Brien indicated that the program could start small, sending 2 boxers – the male and female athlete of the year, and expand as there were funds to cover more based on the membership revenue generated.

President Cunningham asked Mr. O'Brien if he would be interested to head up a new committee for educational and development of boxers. He indicated he would.

President Cunningham called for a vote to form a new committee with Mr. O'Brien as the chairman. The vote was uniramous. Mr. Obrien will present his committee members and the name of his committee at the meeting in June.

There was a proposal to sponsor Zoe Glass to the WQ in New Mexico in March 2018, and to sponsor JaQuan McElroy to the EQ in October 2018. After much discussion on the topic, it was agreed upon for the scholarship to include a per diem of \$30/day for food, estimated lodging of \$700, and assistance with transportation costs, the total to be reimbursed would not exceed \$1400. Reimbursement for travel/hotel costs would be upon the return of receipts to the treasurer. The proposal passed unanimously.

2. Betty Richards informed the BOD that 4 (four) LBC boards had recently been suspended for financial impropriety and the treasurer or other board members is being sued (prosecuted) by USA boxing. The solution proposed by USAB was to add James B Lawrence to all LBC accounts. Some LBC's are fighting it. The problem is that when the LBC treasurer closes the account, USAB has no recourse or access to what had been in the acct previously.

President Cunningham asked if there was a reason not to (add Mr. Lawrence) and added he did not see a downside to following the directive of USAB. It was agreed to add him to the account. Betty will find out what information the bank and CU need to accomplish this.

3. Gary Richards brought up again that the EM GG needs more money to send their boxers to the State finals, he asked for an additional \$1000 to cover the runner ups and state champs to the finals in GR. After much discussion the call for the vote offered 2 in favor, 5 opposed. The stipend for 2018 stays at \$2500 for EM GG to advance boxers to the state finals.

4. Scott Dexter brought up the recent email from USAB regarding sanctioning shows for Group Members (i.e. USIBA, NCBA, NLA, GG) must now apply for sanction through local LBC for Non-Advancing tournaments. It was asked if that meant that the shows would be posted on the LBC website, Scott said he is open to working with them as long as there is not an LBC show on the same day.

Motion to adjourn by Scott Dexter, second by Sarah Rae Batenburg.

Meeting adjourned – 4:30pm

Addendum:

Phone meeting / conference call Friday March 23, 9:38pm

On phone – President Cunningham, Gary and Betty Richards, Scott Dexter, Ed Mosley, Cheri Szendre.
Unavailable – Sarah Rae Batenburg

President Cunningham shared that he had a conversation with the Tournament Planning Committee Chair Dave Packer and that Dave had indicated that with the Golden Gloves and other responsibilities he had in the next few weeks that he would not be able to find time to work on the LBC tournament planning. President Cunningham indicated that if we waited, that would leave us in virtually the same spot as last year, scrambling to put a tournament together and that had been a cause for low turnout last year.

President Cunningham indicated that he had taken matters into his own hands and was able to secure a venue in the Detroit area for the dates of Sept. 7-9, 2018 for youth 17-18 and Elite 19-40. Betty immediately indicated that they (she and Gary) were not available for those dates. The discussion that the venue was available, at no charge to the LBC, Downtown BC would supply 2 rings and the venue. They would keep 100% of revenue from concessions and merchandise sales and that the gate admission revenue would be split 50/50. Mr. Mosely suggested that we should get something in writing, indicating these terms so that there was no confusion later. Betty wanted to know if the dates could be changed, President Cunningham indicated that he had chosen those dates 1. Based on the clubs' availability, and 2. So that it was not closer than 30 days prior to the Eastern Qualifier tournament in the event of boxer restrictions / injuries but that he would ask if there were alternate dates available.

President Cunningham indicated that this would be a great opportunity to have a tournament without substantial costs to the LBC like last year and that he did not foresee the ability of the LBC to advance a team to the national, but that he would like to see the awards for the winners and runner ups to be more substantial than a trophy or plaque. He thought something like a warm up suit, or jacket for the winner.

The board was receptive to the idea, President Cunningham will again contact the gym to secure the details, check for an alternate date, and get something in writing once those items have been discussed. He thanked everyone for their time, the meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.